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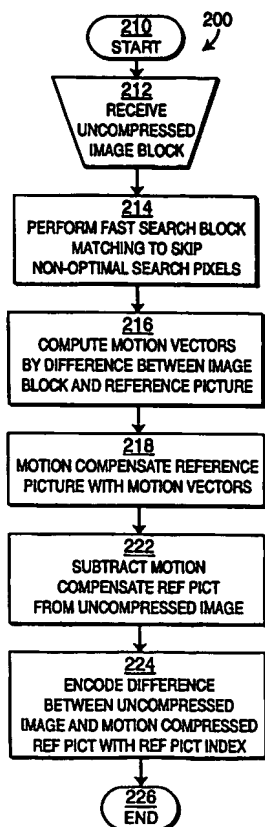
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(54) Title: MOTION ESTIMATION WITH FAST SEARCH BLOCK MATCHING



(57) Abstract: A video encoder and corresponding method are provided for encoding video signal data for an image block and a particular reference picture index to predict the image block, where the encoder (100) includes a fast search block motion estimator (180) for providing motion vectors corresponding to the at least one particular reference picture, the motion estimator comprising a fast search block matching portion for performing fast search block matching while excluding non-optimal search points in accordance with a comparison of a normalization of the image block pixels against a normalization of the reference picture pixels, the fast search block matching portion having an output responsive to the at least one particular reference picture; and the corresponding method (200) includes receiving a substantially uncompressed image block (212), block matching (214) the image block in correspondence with at least one particular reference picture while excluding non-optimal search points in accordance with a comparison of a normalization of the image block pixels against a normalization of the reference picture pixels, computing (216) motion vectors corresponding to a difference between the image block and the at least one particular reference picture, and motion compensating (218) the at least one particular reference picture in correspondence with the motion vectors.

WO 2005/017759 A1



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